

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A multilayer type of information recording medium comprising:

a plurality of information recording layers into each of which information is recordable; and
a single corresponding-information recording layer into which information corresponding to the information recorded in the information recording layers is recordable,

wherein, in a lead-in area of the information recording medium, only the single corresponding-information recording layer has a reflection layer, and each of the information recording layers has no reflection layer.

Claim 2 (Original): The multilayer type of information recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the corresponding information is control information for controlling either recording or reproduction of the information into and from each of the information recording layers.

Claim 3 (Original): The multilayer type of information recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the corresponding-information recording layer is provided with a reflection layer to reflect an optical beam radiated to optically read the corresponding information.

Claim 4 (Original): The multilayer type of information recording medium according to claim 3, wherein a distance from a beam-incidence-side surface of the medium to the corresponding-information recording layer is the same as a distance from a beam-incidence-side surface of a monolayer type of information recording medium provided with a single information recording layer for recording the information to the single information recording layer.

Claim 5 (Original): The multilayer type of information recording medium according to claim 4, wherein the distance from the beam-incidence-side surface of the medium to the corresponding-information recording layer is 100 μm .

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The multilayer type of information recording medium according to claim 3, further comprising:

a plurality of adjustment layers located ~~between the single corresponding information recording layer and the plurality of information recording layers and located continuously to the plurality of information recording layers toward the lead-in area[.]]-respectively, with the same level between each adjustment layer and the information recording layer kept.~~

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An information recording and reproducing apparatus for selectively recording or reproducing information into or from an information recording layer consisting of either a single signal information recording layer of a monolayer type of information recording medium or one of a plurality of information recording layers of a multilayer type of information recording medium, the apparatus comprising:

a first setting device configured to initialize operating parameters to be appropriate for either the recording or reproduction of the information into or from the information recording layer of the monolayer type of information recording medium;

a determination device configured to determine whether or not an information recording medium loaded currently in the information recording and reproducing apparatus is the monolayer type of information recording medium or the multilayer type of information recording medium, the determination being carried out after the initialization of the operating parameters;

a first recording/reproducing device configured to start recording or reproducing the information into or from the information recording layer of the monolayer type of information recording medium on the basis of the initialized operating parameters, when the determination device determines that the currently loaded information recording medium is the monolayer type of information recording medium;

a second setting device configured to change the operating parameters to be appropriate for either the recording or reproduction of the information into or from the information recording layer of the multilayer type of information recording medium, when the determination device determines that the currently loaded information recording medium is the multilayer type of information recording medium; and

a second recording/reproducing device configured to start recording or reproducing the information into or from the information recording layer of the multilayer type of information recording medium on the basis of the changed operating parameters,

wherein the multilayer type of information recording medium comprises a single corresponding-information recording layer into which information corresponding to the information recorded in the information recording layers is recordable,

wherein the corresponding-information recording layer is provided with a reflection layer to reflect an optical beam radiated to optically read the corresponding information, and

wherein, in a lead-in area of the information recording medium, only the single corresponding-information recording layer has a reflection layer, and each of the information recording layers has no reflection layer.

Claims 8-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The information recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim [[9]] 7, wherein a distance from a beam-incidence-side surface of the medium to the corresponding-information recording layer is the same as a distance from a beam-incidence-side surface of a monolayer type of information recording medium provided with a single information recording layer for recording the information to the single information recording layer.

Claim 11 (Original): The information recording and reproducing apparatus according to 10, wherein the distance from the beam-incidence-side surface of the medium to the corresponding-information recording layer is 100 μm .

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The information recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim [[9]] 7, wherein the multilayer type of information recording medium further comprises a plurality of adjustment layers located ~~between the single corresponding information recording layer and the plurality of information recording layers and located~~ continuously to the plurality of information recording layers toward the lead-in area[[,]] ~~respectively, with the same level between each adjustment layer and the information recording layer kept.~~

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An information recording and reproducing method for selectively recording or reproducing information into or from an information recording layer consisting of either a single signal information recording layer of a monolayer type of information recording medium or one of a plurality of information recording layers of a multilayer type of information recording medium, the method comprising the steps of:

initializing operating parameters to be appropriate for either the recording or reproduction of the information into or from the information recording layer of the monolayer type of information recording medium;

determining whether or not an information recording medium loaded currently is the monolayer type of information recording medium or the multilayer type of information recording medium, the determination being carried out after the initialization of the operating parameters;

first starting recording or reproducing the information into or from the information recording layer of the monolayer type of information recording medium on the basis of the initialized operating parameters, when it is determined that the currently loaded information recording medium is the monolayer type of information recording medium;

changing the operating parameters to be appropriate for either the recording or reproduction of the information into or from the information recording layer of the multilayer type of information recording medium, when it is determined that the currently loaded information recording medium is the multilayer type of information recording medium; and

second starting recording or reproducing the information into or from the information recording layer of the multilayer type of information recording medium on the basis of the changed operating parameters,

wherein the multilayer type of information recording medium comprises a single corresponding-information recording layer into which information corresponding to the information recorded in the information recording layers is recordable,

wherein the corresponding-information recording layer is provided with a reflection layer to reflect an optical beam radiated to optically read the corresponding information, and

wherein, in a lead-in area of the information recording medium, only the single corresponding-information recording layer has a reflection layer, and each of the information recording layers has no reflection layer.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable recording medium in which a program is recorded, the program enabling a computer to function for selectively recording or reproducing information into or from an information recording layer consisting of either a single signal information recording layer of a monolayer type of information recording medium or one of a plurality of information recording layers of a multilayer type of information recording medium, the computer providing the functions of:

initializing operating parameters to be appropriate for either the recording or reproduction of the information into or from the information recording layer of the monolayer type of information recording medium;

determining whether or not an information recording medium loaded currently is the monolayer type of information recording medium or the multilayer type of information recording medium, the determination being carried out after the initialization of the operating parameters;

first starting recording or reproducing the information into or from the information recording layer of the monolayer type of information recording medium on the basis of the initialized operating parameters, when it is determined that the currently loaded information recording medium is the monolayer type of information recording medium;

changing the operating parameters to be appropriate for either the recording or reproduction of the information into or from the information recording layer of the multilayer type of information recording medium, when it is determined that the currently loaded information recording medium is the multilayer type of information recording medium; and

second starting recording or reproducing the information into or from the information recording layer of the multilayer type of information recording medium on the basis of the changed operating parameters,

wherein the multilayer type of information recording medium comprises a single corresponding-information recording layer into which information corresponding to the information recorded in the information recording layers is recordable,

wherein the corresponding-information recording layer is provided with a reflection layer to reflect an optical beam radiated to optically read the corresponding information, and

wherein, in a lead-in area of the information recording medium, only the single
corresponding-information recording layer has a reflection layer, and each of the information
recording layers has no reflection layer.